

Message Text

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14

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-13 ADP-00 AGR-20 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10

RSC-01 CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

L-03 H-03 PA-03 USIA-15 PRS-01 RSR-01 /204 W

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R 191230Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3996

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 0706

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN EEC MP

SUBJECT: MAURITIAN REACTION EEC SUGAR DEVELOPMENTS

1. LOCAL REACTION TO STATEMENT FRENCH MINAG CHIRAC THAT GOF OPPOSES EEC SUGAR PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PREDICTABLE BLEAK. BREHCN AMBASSADOR CLAIMS PRIVATELY TO ME GOF PREPARED MAKE SPECIAL CONCESSIONS RE MAURITIAN SUGAR, VIEW COUNTRY'S UNALTERABLE DEPENDENCE THIS CROP, BUT THAT GOF FEELS DIFFERENTLY ABOUT MANY OTHER COMMONWEALTH SUGAR PRODUCERS WHICH LESS DEPENDENT ON SUGAR AND SHOULD DIVERSIFY. HE ASSERTS PRIMIN RAMGOOLAM REMAINS "OPTIMISTIC" RE ASSURED ACCESS COMMON MARKET FOR MAURITIAN SUGAR. HOWEVER, MINFIN RINGADOO WAS IN GLOOMY MOOD WHEN I SOLICITED HIS REACTION RECENT SUGAR DEVELOPMENTS. HE TOLD ME SIR GUY SAUZIER, MAURITIAN SUGAR EXPERT LONDON, HAD COMMENTED LAST MONTH HE FEARED GOM HAD PUT TOO MUCH WEIGHT BEHIND "FRENCH CARD" AND THAT FRENCH ATTITUDE WOULD IN END PROVE DISAPPOINTING.

2. PRIMIN RAMGOOLAM LEAVING JULY 21, AND FONMIN DUVAL JULY 22,
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FOR BRUSSELS MEETING END MONTH. DUVAL TOLD ME HE EXPECTS SESSION

TO BE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT WITH RESPECT FUTURE ASSURED MAURITIAN
SUGAR EXPORTS TO EC.

3. COMMENT: FRENCH, AND THEIR LOCAL MOUTHPIECE, DUVAL, HAVE IN
PAST TAKEN POSITION MAURITIUS SHOULD RECEIVE GUARANTEED FIXED
INCOME FROM SUGAR SALES. PREPONDERANT LOCAL OPINION HAS REJECTED
THIS APPROACH AS UNREALISTIC, VIEW MAURITIAN UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM
AND RELATED FACTORS. SUGAR INDUSTRY AND GOM AS WHOLE STILL HOPES
ASSURED PRODUCTION FIGURE CAN BE WORKED OUT, ALONG LINES
EXISTING COMMONWEALTH SUGAR AGREEMENT, BUT FRENCH ATTITUDE
HARDLY ENCOURAGING.
BREWER

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